

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /132 W

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EAGR

SUBJECT: SEVEN PLUS SEVEN MEETING ON GROUP AGRICULTURE

REF: A. MTN GENEVA 1921 B. MTN GENEVA 1800 C. STATE 19371

1. ON MARCH 16, THE LEADING GROUP AGRICULTURE PARTICIPANTS MET PRIVATELY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PATTERSON TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE SECENARIO FOR THE MARCH 29 GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING. HE ASKED WHETHER IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS MENTIONED IN THE AIRGRAM CONVENING THE MEETING (MTN/GENEVA 1921) NEW POINTS WILL BE REISED UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM "OTHER BUSINESS". AUSTRALIA (FOGARTY) MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF THE GROUP UNDER THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENDA POINT.

2. IN REPLY TO THE CHAIR'S QUESTION OF NOW BEST TO HANDLE THE MAJOR AGENDA ITEM, I.E., THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT STANDARD CODE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, US REP (CULBERT) STATED PER REFTEL C THAT WE CONSIDER THE DISCUSSION SHOULD BE ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL. THE

QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN COVERAGE OF THE CODE WILL BE BASED ON POLICY DECISIONS TO BE MADE AT A LATER STAGE. THE US HOPES THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO WHETHER THERE ARE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO AGRICULTURE WHICH ARE NOT DEALT WITH ADEQUATELY IN PRESENT TEXT OF THE STANDARDS CODE. AS FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED, WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY SUCH PROBLEMS. THE US BELIEVES THAT IF THERE ARE SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE WHICH HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED BY THE DRAFTERS OF THE STANDARDS CODE, THEY SHOULD BE SPECIFIED AND BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NTM SUBGROUP ON STANDARDS. AT ANY RATE, THE WORK OF GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD FOCUS ON TECHNICAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CODE TO AGRICULTURE. THE US IS ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH OTHERS IN THE FORTHCOMING MEETING.

3. EC DEL (JACQUOT) SAID THAT THE EC THINKS THE WORK ON THE STANDARDS CODE IN THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD CONSIST OF TWO PARTS. ON THE ONE HAND, IT SHOULD DEAL WITH THE GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE CODE IN RELATION TO ITS APPLICABILITY TO AGRICULTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE SHOULD BE AN ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE CODE'S PROVISIONS RAISE SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS. THE GENERAL DISCUSSION SHOULD DEAL WITH THE SCOPE AND THE FIELD OF APPLICATION OF THE CODE. THE CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER OR ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE DISCUSSION SHOULD, INTER ALIA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CODE IS RESPONSIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND WHETHER THERE IS CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE PROVISIONS OF GATT AND THOSE OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE. FURTHERMORE, CERTAIN TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED IN PAST MEETINGS OF GROUP AGRICULTURE AND THE THREE SUBGROUPS SHOULD ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER EXAMINATION. FINALLY, THE QUESTION HAS TO BE ANSWERED WHETHER THE DRAFT CODE COULD INTERFERE WITH CERTAIN BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL NORMS AND WHETHER THE WORK ON THE CODE OR THE CODE AS SUCH COULD INTERFERE WITH WORK ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER FORA, SUCH AS THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS.

4. JACQUOT EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMUNITY WISHES TO AVOID AT THE NEXT MEETING PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE PERTAINING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GROUP AGRICULTURES DISCUSSION OF THE STANDARDS CODE AND THE WORK GOING ON IN THE NTM SUBGROUP ON STANDARDS. IN THIS

CONTEXT, JACQUOT STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE STANDARDS CODE IS MERELY A DRAFT, THAT THERE IS NO DEFINITE TEXT, AND THAT PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR MODIFICATION OF THIS DRAFT. ACCORDING TO JACQUOT, PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLEMENTING OR MODIFYING THE STANDARDS CODE MADE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PROPOSALS ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF GROUP AGRICULTURE AND NOT AS PROPOSALS ADDRESSED TO ANY OTHER GROUP, I.E., THE NTM SUBGROUP ON STANDARDS. JACQUOT ALSO SAID THAT FOR THE EC IT IS A MATTER OF INDIFFERENCE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A SUBGROUP ON STANDARDS IS TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GROUP AGRICULTURE.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY ARGENTINA JACQUOT EXPANDED HIS STATEMENTS BY EXPLAINING THAT THE CODE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH INTERNATIONAL WORK AIMING AT THE HARMONIZED OFFICIAL USE

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HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS (SUCH AS THAT UNDERTAKEN IN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS) BECAUSE IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THE CODE TO HARMONIZE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. JACQUOT STRESSED THAT THE CODE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A PRETEXT TO STOP WORK ON CERTAIN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OF DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS EC EFFORTS TO MEET SPECIFIC VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS IN NORTH AMERICA IN ORDER TO SELL BREEDING CATTLE IN THAT AREA.

6. CANADA (DENIS) AGREED WITH ALL PRECEDING SPEAKERS. HE STATED THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER THE CODE IS TO APPLY TO AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE MADE AT A LATER STAGE. CANADA COULD ALSO GO TO AN ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS CODE.

7. JAPAN (YOSHIKUNI) AGREED LARGELY WITH THE US AS HOW ONE SHOULD PROCEED. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT BUT DID NOT OBJECT TO THE APPROACH OUTLINED BY THE COMMUNITY.

8. NORDIC COUNTRIES AND YUGOSLAVIA GENERALLY AGREED WITH THE APPROACH OUTLINED BY THE EC. AUSTRALIA SAID IT WAS PLEASED TO BE GETTING DOWN TO WORK AND LIKE US, HAS HAD AGRICULTURAL COVERAGE IN MIND FROM OUTSET OF STANDARDS EXERCISE.

9. THE CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP THE DEBATE BY STATING THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE'S EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF THE STANDARDS CODE TO AGRICULTURE WOULD BE A TECHNICAL AND NOT A POLICY DISCUSSION. THE EXAMINATION WOULD TAKE UP FIRST THE GENERAL ASPECTS AND THEN THE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE CODE WHEREBY A SECTION-BY-SECTION RATHER THAN A

PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH EXAMINATION OF THE CODE MIGHT
SUFFICE. FURTHERMORE, NO ONE WANTS TO ADDRESS THE PROCEDURAL
QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE PROPOSALS
FOR AMENDING THE CODE BUT IN ANY CASE THIS WON'T ARISE
UNTIL THE TECHNICAL EXAMINATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED WHICH
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MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF GROUP
AGRICULTURE.CULBERT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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